

People in Place – Annual Update 2017: Buckhaven, Fife

Introduction

This brief update highlights the work being undertaken by Corra Foundation (previously called Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland) in Buckhaven, Fife, including the learning gathered so far through the People in Place programme.

➤ Initial community selection process

We first met with members of Fife Council Community Learning and Development team on 15 December 2016, and followed up with the pledge as to how we would set out to work alongside the communities of Fife.¹

This initial meeting was followed up with:

- ✿ Local area team meetings.
- ✿ A community walkabout.
- ✿ Local community meetings.

As a result of the combined research and community walkabout it was agreed that Buckhaven had all the ‘ingredients’ for the People in Place work. These included:

- ✿ A willing appetite from the local team to support our work.
- ✿ A central venue for the worker.
- ✿ The population size met our criteria.
- ✿ The area is a self-defined community.
- ✿ The area had different community spaces.

Louisa Cocris was recruited and began working in Buckhaven in July 2017. This brief report contains a snapshot of the work she has been undertaking.



➤ Snapshot of work during the past year

Phase	Activity
<p>Mapping and Research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Induction meetings. ➤ Development of area community profile. ➤ Desk based research including recent Charette carried out in Buckhaven.
<p style="text-align: center;">Engagement</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">MAGNET bringing people together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Series of conversations with community leaders and groups. ➤ Introductory meetings with key statutory and voluntary sector partners. ➤ Specific activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing Bank - working with partners in the community to locate a permanent base for CB and link them with key contacts for future development of the clothing bank. • Baptist Church to support them to develop the current provision they offer. • Active Fife to develop accessible sports programme and develop a sports kit recycling provision in the area • Supporting Levenmouth community cycle group to set up a family orientated, accessible club • Supporting Buckhaven Beehive Pottery Group to secure vital funds to be able to continue operating • Supporting Buckhaven and Denbeath Gala Committee to become a constituted group, secure funds and develop a fundraising strategy to enable reinstating the Buckhaven and Denbeath gala. • Supporting the development of a Community Bakery • Consultation with young people from Levenmouth Academy.
<p style="text-align: center;">Development of ideas into action</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">TO FIND SOLUTIONS that are appropriate and work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ongoing development of Levenmouth cycling group ➤ Fundraising events with Buckhaven and Denbeath Gala Committee ➤ Continued support of Clothing and Sports Kit recycle bank ➤ Partnership working with FC CLD and Nourish to develop the community bakery ➤ Ongoing support for Baptist Church community café and in particular the fund-raising effort to secure funds for extension of provision.
<p style="text-align: center;">Brokering role</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ongoing awareness raising and contact sharing of services, organisations and people who can help local people in the community but also can help partners to work better together. ➤ Introducing new potential partners to the area to develop new areas of work and activity.



PROVIDE THE GLUE to stick everything together²

- Working with partners in the community to locate a permanent base for the clothing bank. Connected the group with Active Fife for joint working with sports kit recycling bank project being developed by AF and CF community coordinator. Signposted the clothing bank to potential funding streams both with CF and local funds.
- Supporting and signposting the Baptist Church to training in preparation for forthcoming fundraising programme. Attending meetings with them, set up a focussed fund-raising sub group and supporting them with community consultations.
- Community bakery – co-ordinated approach to bring together a range of partners to explore the potential to develop a community bakery.
- Beehive Pottery group- supporting them to expand and research funding streams. Connected them with national arts focussed organisations.
- Levenmouth community cycle group- ongoing support including working with volunteers to open bank account, write a constitution and submit 2 successful funding applications.

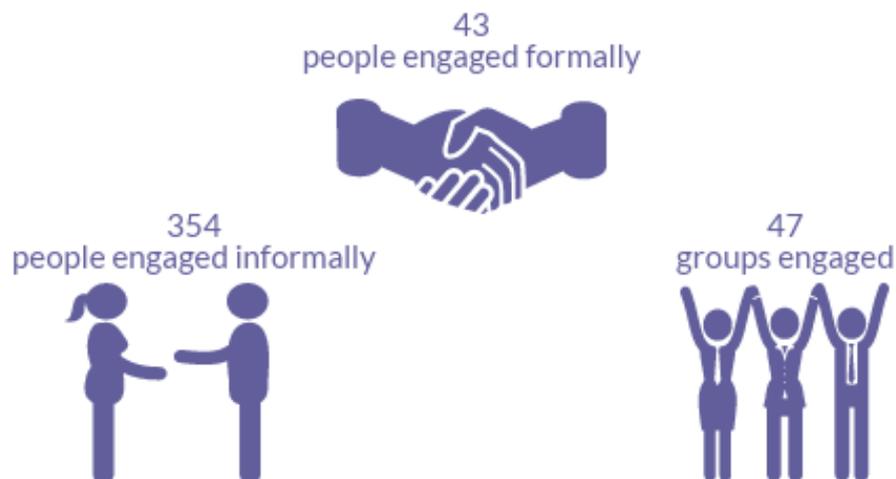


All designed to:  the community to achieve their ambition.

Area in Numbers

➤ Engagement numbers

As part of our learning and evaluation framework we have developed systematic ways in which to keep track of how we are working in the community using both qualitative and quantitative data. Below is a snapshot of engagement the Buckhaven community co-ordinator has done over last nine months.



² A snapshot of some of the connections being made can be found in the 'Connections Mapping' section of this report

➤ Brief case study

Levenmouth Community Cycle Group:

Following on from a conversation with three community members at the beginning of the autumn in 2017, a community cycle group has developed. The aim of the group is to encourage families to join the informal rides and if required they can borrow a bike to use for the cycle trip. We use donated bikes and the two of the volunteers have completed cycle mechanics training. Three rides have been organised over the winter and they have been well attended.

Some quotes from the rides:

"It's freezing but I've had a brilliant time"

"This is the first time I've been on a bike since I was a kid and it's amazing!"



Look ahead

➤ Over the next few months Corra Foundation's People in Place team will:

- ✿ Work with Buckhaven and Denbeath Gala Committee to develop the Winter gala event through local fundraising events, and through supporting the committee through regular meetings.
- ✿ Work in partnership with Fife Council CLD and Area Team Manager, Buckhaven Community Centre Management committee and Nourish, to develop the community bakery.
- ✿ Continue to support for the Levenmouth community cycling group. Having secured funding for the next few months, work with the group to purchase essential safety equipment, deliver cycle training and leadership training where necessary and continue regular cycling trips for families throughout the summer months.
- ✿ Work in partnership with the Baptist Church to develop a coherent and achievable fundraising strategy to raise required funds for improvements to the church in order to extend current community focussed provision.
- ✿ Explore the opportunities to develop theatre work in Buckhaven. This is intended to involve theatre companies from out with the area, but working with groups from Buckhaven.
- ✿ Continue to support the Buckhaven Beehive pottery group with governance and finance so that they can develop and maximise the potential of the group and welcome new members.

Co-ordinator Contact Details

Louise Cocris

Address:

1 College Street,
Buckhaven, Leven
KY8 1AB

Email: Louisa@corra.scot

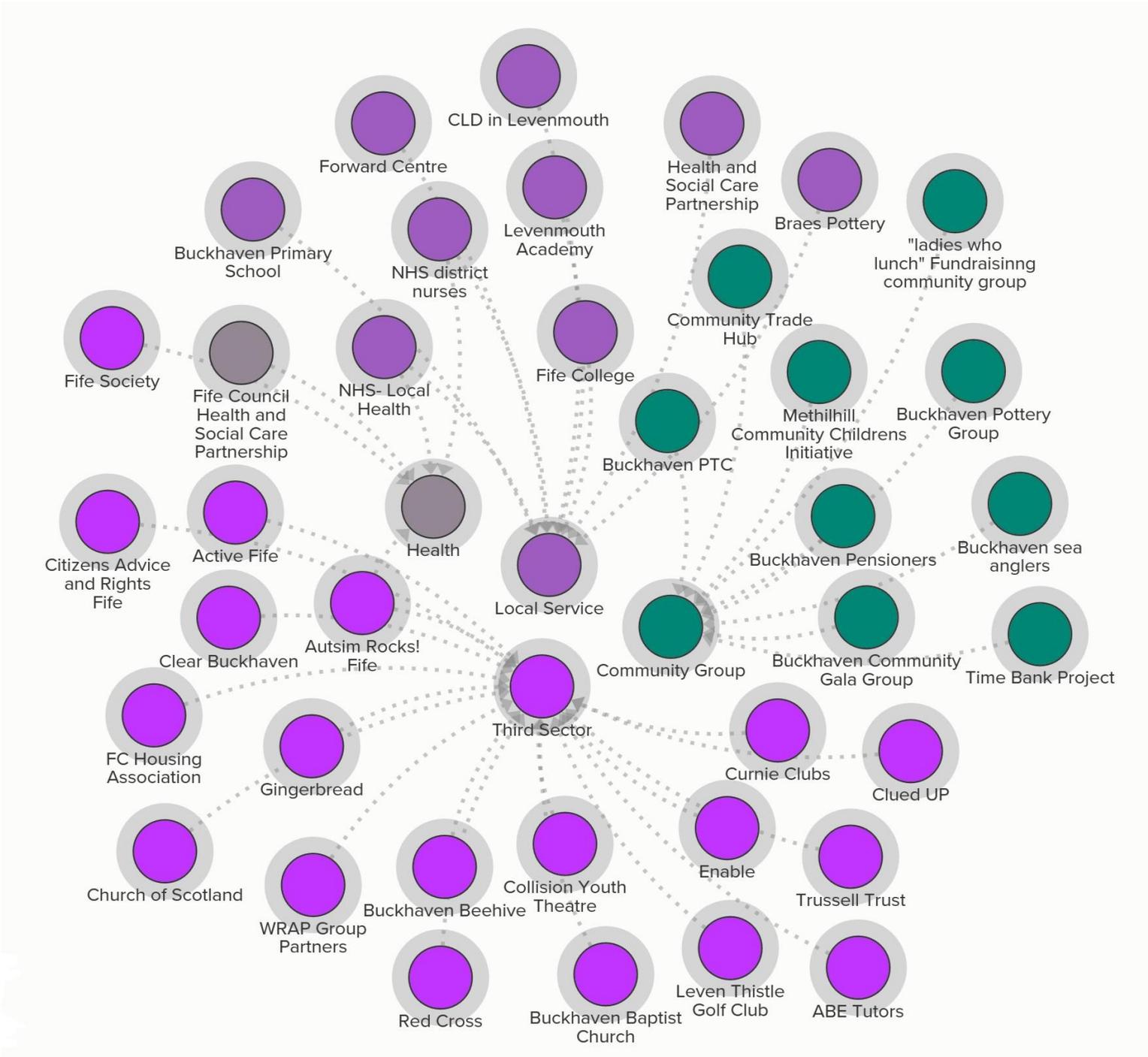
Phone: 07860855022

www.corra.scot



Connections Mapping

➤ Visual snapshot of the connections being made



Legend

- Connection
- Third Sector
- Community Group
- Health
- Local Service

Summary of the People in Place Programme

Corra Foundation (previously Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland) launched the place-based programme “People in Place” in 2014 after a strategic review which highlighted that traditional grantmaking was not reaching many of Scotland’s communities, and yet these communities are among those facing the greatest daily challenges. Corra Foundation believes that by supporting communities and increasing participation, individuals and therefore communities will become more confident, more able to challenge the structural barriers that impact on everyday life and in this way the programme will achieve systems change.

People in Place has an overarching theory of change for this work. The key indicators of this are:

- ❁ To reach places in Scotland where Corra Foundation and other grant-makers struggle to reach.
- ❁ To work in partnership with the community to identify assets and encourage participation, engagement and action.
- ❁ To create a network of connections that help to increase resilience and facilitate access to sustainable resourcing for the long term.
- ❁ To increase awareness of the importance of place and how this affects life chances and opportunities, through learning and sharing.

Culminating in creating long term social change.

In 2014 we set out to establish a programme, working alongside communities in nine local authority areas that were in receipt of proportionately less independent grant funding. We are now working alongside eight communities in seven of the original nine local authority areas with the remaining two due to begin in 2018.

Sharing Lessons and Learning at Programme Level

➤ Emerging programme level learning

- ❁ Early insight shows us that by focussing on engaging and listening in small communities we are reaching people who are often seldom heard, working to provide a platform for them to be heard.
- ❁ There is an increased understanding as to why communities do not access independent grant funding. Reasons include:
 - The formal process of having to be a registered charity or fully constituted group.
 - The skills and capacity needed to complete the process.
 - The fear and time it takes to complete applications.
 - The fact that groups need to alter their idea to fit criteria.
 - Worry about what will happen if the funding runs out and the impact this could have.
 - For many groups, the idea is short lived or a one off so the formal process of accessing funding is too daunting.

- There is still a big reliance on the council doing things and a belief it is their job. This, coupled with the lack of belief within the communities where the programme is working, means that the great ideas people have never come to fruition as there is a perception that there are too many barriers and they are unsurmountable.
- ❁ Early indicators are that to really foster resilience in place, different financing models need to be developed to fit with the communities' ambitions; this will be a focus for the coming year as the programme grows.
- ❁ Effective engagement takes time, developing trusting relationships to allow participation to increase organically.
- ❁ Community, agenda-free space is vital to foster relationships.

➤ Support groups

- ❁ The People in Place programme continues to benefit from strong commitment from the co-investors who provide ongoing support as well as investment, members of the Place-based Advisory Group (P-bAG), who meet three times a year to challenge and support on the operational aspects of the delivery, and the Observers group, who meet twice a year to focus on the macro impact emerging from working across multiple areas.

➤ Development of the learning framework

- ❁ People in Place has developed a framework through which to capture learning both as individuals and as a team.
- ❁ This framework involves weekly capture of reflections on what is happening in each community using qualitative and quantitative data, and bi-monthly meetings to discuss the learning coming out of these weekly reflections.
- ❁ The evolving evidence base is capturing what works and what doesn't for engaging with people in different communities, and particularly with the people who are identified as being seldom heard in those communities.

➤ Looking forward

- ❁ In the longer term, it is envisaged that this framework will help us to better understand what enables positive change.
- ❁ Support will continue to be given to develop community co-ordinators in their ability to gather evidence and listen to the stories, experiences and aspirations of the people they are working alongside.
- ❁ Our work has led to the Scottish Government funding Corra Foundation to undertake a short-term project to convene a cross-sector group to explore what makes place-based approaches effective and make recommendations for change.